



SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PRACTICES IN PENANG STATE: A REVIEW OF CURRENT PRACTICES AND THE WAY FORWARD

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Abstract

Solid waste management problems proved to be complex in origin and in solution. The rapid economic development and population growth experienced by the State of Penang, Malaysia have resulted in a tremendous increase in the quantities and types of solid wastes generated. Domestic solid waste is the most visible consequence of this economic development. However, considerable amounts of this waste could be recycled and reutilized if separated. This paper reviews the current status of solid wastes management in Penang State and offers recommendations for future improvements. The existing solid waste management system is currently affected by unfavourable economic, institutional, legislative, technical and operational constraints. A reliable waste collection service is clearly needed and the waste collection vehicles need to be appropriate to the local situation, whilst more vehicles are required to cope with the ever increasing volumes of wastes generated. More effective efforts are also needed to involve the public in policy and service plans development, as well as the implementation of future waste management programmes, including decisions regarding landfill sites. Public support including participation is essential for the success of such decisions and for the sustainability of the new strategies, plans and services.

Key words: waste composition, collection and transfer, landfill disposal, Penang (Malaysia), recycling and recovery, resources, solid waste generation
